

CLAIMS

1. A supply element for a laboratory microchip with a microfluid structure for chemical, physical, and/or biological processing, a first supplier for supplying the substances, and a second supplier for transferring a potential necessary to move substances corresponding to the microfluid structure, at least one substance-containing third supplier, including a seal arrangement for opening the third supplier at least to the microchip in response, the supply element and the microchip being joined for enabling the substance to be transferred from the supply element to the microchip.

2. The supply element according to claim 1, includes a seal, the first supplier being provided for the microchip for opening the seal in response to the supply element and microchip are brought together for enabling the substance to flow from the third supplier means to the corresponding first supplier of the microchip.

3. The supply element according to claim 2, wherein the seal includes a chemically resistant substance.

4. The supply element according to claim 1, further including an encapsulation, the first supplier being provided for the microchip for opening, the encapsulation in response to the supply element and microchip are brought together for enabling the substance to flow from the third supplier means to the corresponding first supplier means of the microchip.

5. The supply element according to claim 3, wherein the substance includes wax.

6. The supply element according to claim 1, wherein the third supplier includes ends sealed by a membrane that is flush with side surfaces of the supply element, the membrane being formed from a chemically resistant material.

7. The supply element according to claim 6, wherein the material is a metal.

8. The supply element according to claim 6, wherein the material is a gas-permeable polymer.

9. The supply element according to claim 1, wherein the third supplier includes at least one substance sample.

10. The supply element according to claim 1, wherein the third supplier includes at least one substance reagent.

11. The supply element according to claim 1, wherein the third supplier includes at least one substance sample and at least one reagent.
12. The supply element according to claim 1, further including a fourth supplier for transferring the potential required to move the substances to the microchip, the fourth supplier being coupled for interaction with the second supplier on the microchip that corresponds with the fourth supplier.
13. The supply element according to claim 1 in combination with supply equipment for an operating device for supplying the microchip with the required potential(s) and/or substances, further including an attachment arrangement for the supply element releasably attaching to the supply equipment.
14. The supply element according to claim 13, wherein the attaching arrangement includes a bayonet lock.
15. The supply element according to claim 13, wherein the supply element includes a first coding arrangement for identifying the supply element and the supply equipment includes a second coding arrangement, the first and second coding arrangements corresponding to each other and interacting with each other for enabling identification of the supply element.
16. An operating device for a supply element according to claim 13, further including the microchip, a first assembly carrying a module carrying the supply equipment and the supply element, a second assembly, the module being releasably connected to the second assembly.

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